

The G-1 laid the foundation for the future of Gulfstream Aerospace. Five decades after that first flight and more than four decades after moving to Savannah, Gulfstream has manufactured more than 1,800 aircraft. The company's jets have been used to train NASA crew members, transport top Government officials, and support our Armed Forces, making Gulfstream a vital part of America's aerospace industry.

Gulfstream also plays a key role in the city of Savannah, where its workforce has grown from just 100 employees in 1967 to more than 6,000 today, making it the largest manufacturing employer in the city. That workforce is expected to grow even more in years to come thanks to a 7-year, \$400 million-plus Long-Range Facilities Master Plan that includes at least 1,100 new jobs.

I am delighted to recognize the golden anniversary of Gulfstream flight and to congratulate its employees on their many contributions to the community, the country, and the worldwide aviation industry. With the help of its employees, Gulfstream has become a corporate citizen of the highest standard. I commend Gulfstream Aerospace on all their achievements and look forward to their continued success in the city of Savannah and the great State of Georgia.●

#### EMPLOYEE BENEFIT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments today to pay tribute to the Employee Benefit Research Institute, or EBRI, on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. EBRI is a well-known, nonpartisan research institution providing invaluable analysis, briefings, and publications on health and retirement issues, which are critically important to both America's workers and the employers that sponsor these benefits. The high-quality and objective work done by EBRI has won it respect within the halls of Congress, among members on both sides of the aisle in the House of Representatives and in the Senate. On EBRI's anniversary, I wish to register my appreciation for its work and my admiration for its commitment to issues relating to employee benefits. I commend EBRI for the valuable contribution the institution has made to policymaking in the all-important areas of retirement, health, and economic security, and wish EBRI continued success in the future.●

#### BETTENDORF COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Bettendorf Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Bettendorf Community School District received a 2001 Harkin construction grant for \$75,000 which it used for a fitness education center and a 2002 Harkin fire life safety grant for \$150,000 which was used for an addition to the high school. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute superintendent Harrison Cass, Jr., former superintendents Marty Lucas and John Perdue, the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Bettendorf Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—president Barry Anderson, vice president Jeannine Crockett, Paul Castro, Barb Ehrmann, Melinda Duncan Foreman, Betsy Justis, Scott Tinsman and former board members Debbie Roski, Richard Wahlstrand, Dean Arney, Tom Luton, Kathy Weigle, and Steve Mayer.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Bettendorf Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them and wish them a very successful new school year.●

#### CRESTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Creston Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Creston Community School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling \$1 million which it used to help with renovations to convert the middle school into an early childhood education center. This project was part of a comprehensive facility plan for the district which included a new K-8 school and an addition to the high school. These schools are the modern, state-of-the-art facilities that befit the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, they are the kind of schools that every child in America deserves. The district also received a 1998 fire safety grant totaling \$60,862 to install fire alarms, improve accessibility, and update electrical systems throughout the district.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Creston Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—president Bob Deranleau, vice president Stacy Wood, Randy Hughes, Chad Briley, and Brian Strider, and former board members Dr. Bob